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Cosmic Explosion

Canberra Cosmos

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CANBERRA COSMOS

v

SYDNEY UNITED

Bruce Stadium, Wednesday 13th March 1996

Issue 12

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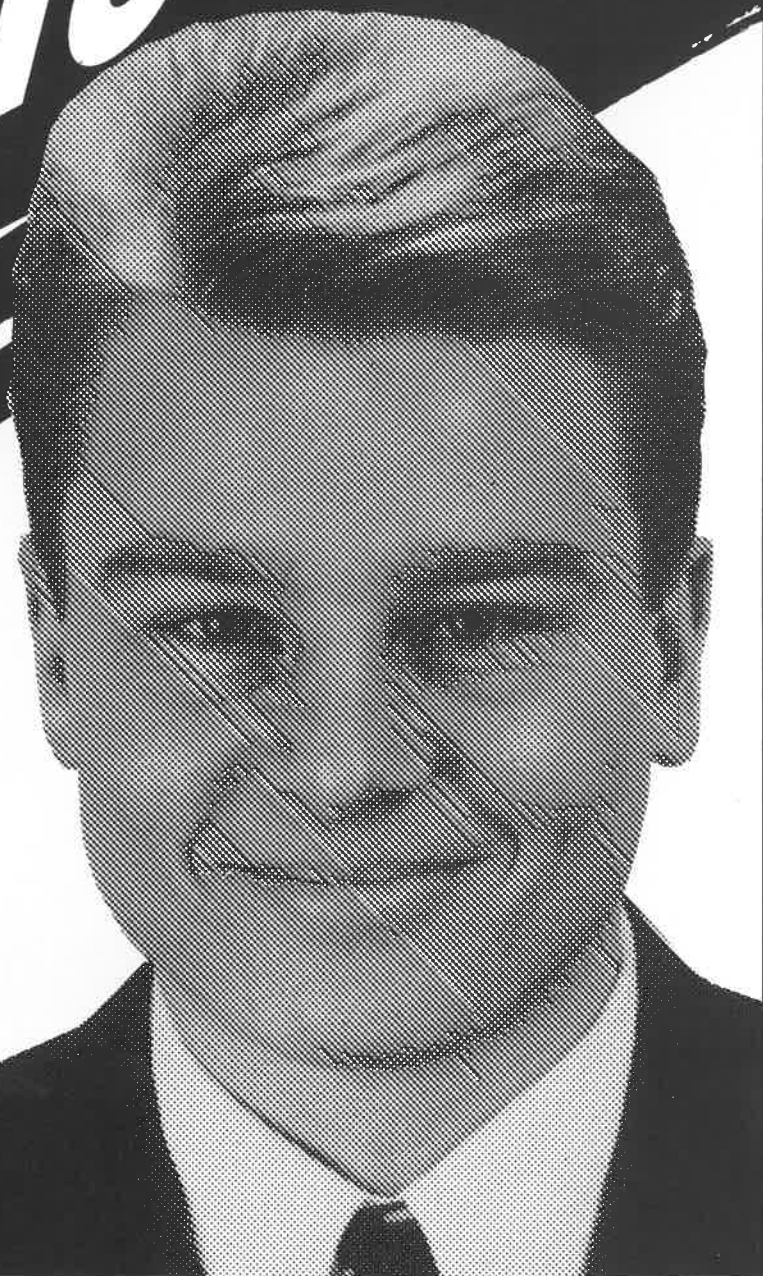
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6PM WEEKNIGHTS

Sport with Phil Small

WIN NEWS



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MATCH PREVIEW

David Wright previews tonight's match against the Crows.

Sydney United were the first team to appear against us at Bruce way back in October. Over 5000 saw us share the points that night. *Cosmos* were pretty fired up after United's coach Branko Culina had publicly predicted we would be the League's 'easy beats'. By mid season Branko did have the good grace to admit his mistake and did so on SBS's *On the Ball*.

The fact remains we have lost the other two encounters we have had with Sydney United down in Sydney. We lost a pre-season match 2-1 in the Waratah Cup which, incidentally, United went on to win that trophy, pocketing \$50000 in the process. United also got the better of us in the second round of the competition when we conceded a couple of penalties and ended up 3-0 down.

Sydney United are a youthful side - many claim they are the team of the future. However, they seem to have most of the ingredients for success in place already. Young John Perosh has established himself as a more than adequate replacement for Ivan Kalac after the latter's \$1.7 million transfer to Leicester City. Most will remember him for the courageous save that sparked the problems in their game against Marconi. It is sad that those incidents are remembered rather than the outstanding and gutsy performance Perosh put on that night.

In Tony Popovich, they have a very classy sweeper who is seen, particularly by Culina, as a potential Socceroo captain. Unfortunately for Popovich and Culina, Eddie Thompson rallied round his captain Socceroo - our own Paul Wade. The point is well made though. Popovich has all the qualities necessary for the job. His time will come. So too will his break into the big time. Although his trial with Leeds United did not pay immediate dividends, his future must lie in Europe.

With a midfield boasting the likes of Robert Enes, Aytek Genc and Ante Moric, the battle for control should be an engaging one with Paul Wade no doubt anxious to show "Poppa" the time has not yet arrived for him to yield to the young aspirant.

Perhaps the most intriguing comparison on the night will be to see how well *Cosmos*' Alex Castro can match the energy and creativity of returned hero Jimmy Patikas. Similarities in both role and style between the two are obvious. Patikas has broken his goal drought at United since his return from Greece and should be more relaxed in front of goal. He has the potential to solve Culina's main problem this season which has been scoring goals. This despite having talented youngsters available such as Ante Milicic, Sean Babic and David Zdrilic.

We haven't beaten Sydney United in three attempts this season, but their recent form, having drawn three and lost two of their last five games, is exactly the same as ours. (I've just heard that they have beaten West Adelaide 3-0 but have no details). John Koch needs to keep his defence very focussed from the outset. I thought full-backs Paul Dee and Peter Mazis gave their opposite numbers too much room against Melbourne Knights. They are at their best when attacking themselves and have been a huge asset to the team in that capacity since they paired up, but they need to remember their defensive duties come first.

With Wade and Kelly set to join Michael Musitano and Alex Castro in a full strength midfield, I expect them to be able to deliver enough quality balls for Perinovic and Lemezina to send the visitors home empty handed. But if I were a betting man, I wouldn't forget that the two teams are the top draw specialists in the League with 17 draws between them.

DAVID WRIGHT

COVER PHOTO

Young gun Alex Castro in full flight

From the LYONS Den

Its great to be back in front of our home supporters at Bruce again after what seems a very long three weeks. I'm writing this before heading off to face Adelaide City in the morning and can only report on our three draws against Newcastle Breakers, Melbourne Knights and Morwell Falcons.

We've scored nine goals in those three games and yet have only three points to show for some very gutsy comebacks from almost impossible situations. What is frustrating is that we seem all too willing to give the opposition a flying start. The comeback from 4-0 against Newcastle will go down in the annals of the national league as one of the most extraordinary games in the league's history. Most of you will have seen the game against the Melbourne Knights. To come back from 2-0 down against the current League Champions was a gutsy performance and you won't see a better goal than that by young Alex Castro which brought us back into the game.

The draw against Morwell followed much the same pattern. Morwell got by far the better of the early exchanges but failed to capitalise on the many chances they created. Morwell were reduced to 10 men after Scott Miller was sent off just before half-time. The send-off seemed a bit harsh at the time and although we took control of the game we were very wasteful with the chances we created. In fact our equaliser only came from Tony Lemezina pressuring the goalkeeper into a mistake.

I still think we can get into the play-offs. We can beat any side in the league on the day but we must turn those draws into three pointers. With a couple of wins from our next couple of games which are at home we will be right back in the hunt.

One piece of news which will please you is the fact that our application to play in the league next season was accepted. I'd also like to extend a warm *Cosmos* welcome to the Collingwood Warriors and Perth Glory who will be joining us in an expanded league next season. I had hoped we would be having a 16 team competition next season but *Soccer Australia* are taking the development of the league one step at a time.

The entry of a major Aussie Rules Club into Australian Soccer represents the start of an exciting new era. It might be a bit difficult for the traditionalists to come to terms with but



remember Manchester United was a cricket club before embracing soccer. Perhaps the Canberra *Cosmos* and Raiders or Canons might find a common interest in the future...who knows?

We can expect a two round competition on a regular home and away basis with a minimum of disruption due to the Socceroos' matches which, I understand will be played midweek. The *Johnnie Walker Cup* will be played as a curtain raiser to the season in September.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Branko and the boys from Sydney United to Bruce tonight. They're an exciting young side whose form has been a bit patchy. We've found them tough in the past but I believe we can win, but only if we play from the opening whistle. Against this sort of opposition we can't afford to give them a couple of goals start.

MICHAEL LYONS

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Ericsson Cup Draw

CANBERRA COSMOS - DRAW

Rd	Date	Match	Time	Score	Attendance
1	8/10/95	v Adelaide City	7:30pm	0-2	4,680
2	14/10/95	v Sydney United	7:00pm	0-0	5,490
4	22/10/95	v Sth Melbourne	7:00pm	2-2	2,725
5	28/10/95	v UTS Olympic	7:00pm	2-3	3,920
3	1/11/95	v Wollongong City	7:30pm	2-2	2,240
6	4/11/95	v Marconi Fairfield	7:00pm	0-1	3,617
7	11/11/95	v West Adelaide	7:00pm	1-1	3,210
8	18/11/95	v Brisbane Strikers	7:00pm	1-3	4,809
9	25/11/95	v Newcastle Breakers	7:00pm	3-2	2,240
10	3/12/95	v Melbourne Knights	7:00pm	3-1	4,532
12	9/12/95	v Adelaide City	7:00pm	0-0	4,120
11	13/12/95	v Morwell Falcons	7:30pm	5-0	2,170
13	17/12/95	v Sydney United	7:00pm	0-3	4,984
14	22/12/95	v Wollongong City	7:45pm	3-1	3,201
15	26/12/95	v Sth Melbourne	7:00pm	3-1	3,128
16	30/12/95	v UTS Olympic	7:00pm	0-2	4,753
17	6/1/96	v Marconi Fairfield	7:00pm	1-3	5,290
JWC	13/1/96	v West Adelaide (1st leg)	7:30pm	1-1	2,751
JWC	20/1/96	v West Adelaide (2nd leg)	7:30pm	1-0	1,573
JWC	25/1/96	v South Melbourne (semi-final)	7:30pm	1-3	2,864
18	4/2/96	v West Adelaide	7:30pm	1-2	1,629
19	10/2/96	v Brisbane Strikers	7:00pm	1-2	1,611
20	16/2/96	v Newcastle Breakers	7:45pm	5-5	2,808
21	24/2/96	v Melbourne Knights	7:00pm	3-3	2,689
22	2/3/96	v Morwell Falcons	7:00pm	1-1	2,182
23	10/3/96	v Adelaide City	7:30pm	0-6	4,588
24	13/3/96	v Sydney United	7:30pm		
25	16/3/96	v Wollongong City	7:00pm		
26	24/3/96	v Sth Melbourne	7:00pm		
27	27/3/96	v UTS Olympic	7:30pm		
28	30/3/96	v Marconi Fairfield	7:00pm		
29	6/4/96	v West Adelaide	7:00pm		
30	8/4/96	v Brisbane Strikers	7:00pm		
31	13/4/96	v Newcastle Breakers	7:00pm		
32	21/4/96	v Melbourne Knights	7:00pm		
33	28/4/96	v Morwell Falcons	7:00pm		

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COSMOS LEADING SCORERS

Paul Wade	11
Michael Musitano	5
Marko Perinovic	5
Lachlan Armstrong	4
Tony Lemezina	4
Jason Dunn	3
Norman Kelly	2
Alex Castro	2
Paul Dee	1
Arsenije Popovich	1



ACT ACADEMY LEADING SCORERS

Anthony Barac	9
Pat Phommaseissy	5
Scott Conlon	5
Tony Lemezina	4
Lindsay Wilson	4
John Glass	4
Daniel Bennett	2
Oscar Zamora	2

CANBERRA
COSMOS STAR
PROFILE



NAME: Richard Watson

POSITION: Centre Half

AGE: 20 years

WEIGHT: 86kg

HEIGHT: 6' 2"

LIKES: Golf, Cricket

DISLIKES: Smoking

FAVOURITE FOOD: Chicken Kiev

BEST SPORT-ING MOMENT: League debut -v- South Melbourne

WORST SPORT-ING MOMENT: Time on the bench

GREATEST INFLUENCE: Father, Colin Irwin

PLAYING EXP: 40 A League games
6 W.A. State games

SYDNEY UNITED - A SUMMARY OF NATIONAL LEAGUE PERFORMANCE					
NATIONAL LEAGUE SEASON	FINAL LADDER POSITION	KNOCKOUT PLACING	AV. HOME CROWD	RESULT-v-CANBERRA IN CANB	IN SYD
1984 [^]	6th (12 teams)	=15th (24 teams)	2800	2-1 (Syd U)	-
1985 [^]	2nd (12 teams)	=17th (32 teams)	2000	4-2 (Syd U)	4-2(Syd)
1986 [^]	1st (12 teams)	=17th(32 teams)	2300	-	-
1987	5th (13 teams)	1st (13 teams)	1900	-	-
1988	2nd (14 teams)	= 3rd (24 teams)	1700	-	-
1989	7th (14 teams)	=9th(14 teams)	4000	-	-
1989-90	7th (14 teams)	=5th (14 teams)	4200	-	-
1990-91	7th (14 teams)	=9th (14 teams)	4100	-	-
1991-92	12th (14 teams)	=5th (14 teams)	3900	-	-
1992-93	7th (14 teams)	=3rd (14 teams)	2800	-	-
1993-94	3rd (14 teams)	2nd (14 teams)	3100	-	-
1994-95	3rd (13 teams)	=9th (14 teams)	4800	-	-

[^] national league split into two 12 team conferences.Sydney United and Canberra both in Northern conference.

SYDNEY UNITED - A BRIEF HISTORY

Statistician, Andrew Howe takes a look at the Knights.

Sydney Croatia Sports Club emerged in 1957 and began competing as a soccer team one year later. Like most other sports clubs which emerged at that time, Croatia were formed primarily as social and community club pertaining to one ethnic group. Such clubs catered for the waves of migrants who had chosen to make Australia their new home, after travelling from their beloved homelands in Europe.

But the Croatia soccer team soon became an institute in itself. The club initially joined the NSW Soccer Football Association (NSWSFA). However, after only one year in the NSWSFA—where they did not lose a match—Croatia transferred to the newly formed “rebel” NSW Soccer Federation (NSWSF). The death of the NSWFA soon eventuated because the major clubs of the time—essentially the large mono-ethnic clubs—changed their loyalties to the NSWSF. Intolerant of non-British migrants, the Anglo-Australian based NSWSFA deservingly became defunct. And today, with millions of dollars of assets, the NSWSF remains the richest soccer federation in Australia.

After competing in the NSWSF third division in 1959, Croatia eventually won promotion to the first division in 1963. They won their first state league championship in 1977, and repeated this effort with NSW first division titles in 1978, 1979, 1981 and 1982.

The next step was to join Australia's

national league. In the early 1980's Sydney Croatia were often drawing home attendances of 10,000 in the NSW state league. Yet the national league clubs of the time could only manage average crowds of 3,000. The national league was crying out for such a heavily supported club to enter the national competition. But the national league executive had deemed it not appropriate for clubs to enter the league under nationalistic titles. Croatia were not keen to change their name. However after a massive national league shake-up in 1984, Sydney Croatia were accepted into the national league, and under that name.

Large home crowds in these early national league days ensured that Croatia soon became the most popular club in Sydney. Final series were reached in 1985 and 1986. And in 1987 the club reached the final of the national knock-out cup competition, then called the 'Beach Fashions Cup'. Against South Melbourne, Robbie Slater scored the winner in the first leg in Sydney. Graham Arnold was the sole scorer in the second leg which led to a cup final 2-0 aggregate scoreline to Croatia.

But it was 1988 when Sydney Croatia made their first and only league grand final. Against Marconi the score was 1-1 after 90 minutes and 2-2 after 30 minutes of extra time. With an audience of over 17,000, the 1988 championship decided then went down to penalties, where Marconi were to come out on top.

Renamed to Sydney United in 1993, the club has been an ever-reliable source of Australian soccer talent. Mark Bosnich, Zeljko Kalac and Tony Popovic all learned their trade at United, while fellow Socceroos Graham Arnold and Robbie Slater both spent a significant amount of time with the club. Sydney United deserve high accolades for making such a positive contribution to Australian soccer.

Andrew Howe

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CANBERRA

Ericsson Cup Teams

Canberra Cosmos

25. Steve Mautone
2. Paul Dee
4. Richard Watson
5. Jason Dunn
6. Paul Wade
7. Michael Garcia
8. Norman Kelly
9. Lachlan Armstrong
10. Marko Perinovic (C)
11. Toplica Popovich
12. Arsenije Popovich
14. James Baxter
20. Ben Harris
21. John Koch
22. Michael Musitano
23. Stan Dukic
24. Tony Lemezina
26. Gus Cerro
27. Peter Mazis
29. Njegosh Popovic

COACH: Michael Lyons
ASSISTANT COACH: Ian Heywood

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT Trim Dark Blue
Orange/White

SHORTS Trim Dark Blue
Orange/White

SOCKS White

Sydney United

1. John Perosh
2. Robert Trajkovski
3. Velimir Kupresak
4. Tony Popovic (C)
5. Mark Babic
6. Robert Enes
7. Aytex Genc
8. Ante Moric
9. Robert Markovac
10. Ante Milicic
11. Dominic Usalj
12. Mark Rudan
13. Jim Patikas
14. David Zdrilic
15. Sean Babic
16. Manis Lamond
17. Paul Bilokapic
18. Richard Plesa
20. Andrew Crews

COACH: Branko Culina

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT Trim Red/White
Red/White/Blue

SHORTS Trim White
Red

SOCKS Blue
White

Les Scheinflug Cup Teams

ACT Academy of Sport

Blair Machin
Jason Markezic
Manuel Sermenio
Oscar Zamora
Lindsay Wilson
Steve Richards
Michael Barac
Daniel Bennett
Anthony Barac
Pathana Phommaseisy
David Arranz
John Glass
Luke Larfield
Adam Powell
Antony Kelava
Vasko Stojceski
Silvio Miceli
Matthew Valeri
Dennis Langone
Shane Lyons
Craig Rankine
Scott Conlon

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT: White
Trim: Blue/Jade/Yellow
SHORTS: White
Trim: Blue/Jade/Yellow

Coach: Chris Tanzey
Assistant: Rod Lynes
Manager: Chris Conti

Sydney United

Tom Miletic
Josip Badrov
Patric Mustac
Jason Curic
Dean Culina
Darko Zoric
Jane Talcevski
Joe Moric
Mark Soric
Jacob Burns
Ante Deur
Jason Culina
Eddie Bosnar
Ante Seric

PLAYING STRIP

SHIRT: Red
Trim White
SHORTS: White
Trim Red

Coach: Ivan Petkovic

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From The Grandstand

In this issue, the first of a two part look at the March 23 and 24 open days and special soccer match at Joadja, Chris Kunz looks at the historic trophy itself.

In 1887 the newly formed Southern Cross Football Club of Joadja Creek, near Berrima in NSW, played a home match against a Sydney selection for the 'Atkinson Price Challenge Cup Season 1887' (see photo).

Joadja Creek (today pronounced Joe-add-ja) was a town and workplace for shale and oil miners of mostly Scottish descent, and their families—around 1,200 people. The fact that their club was called Southern Cross FC, was a testament both to their commitment to their new home in the NSW Southern Highlands and to their sympathy for the miners of the Eureka Stockade rebellion, who had flown the blue flag bearing the stars of the Southern Cross, 33 years earlier.

The match (believed to have been played on the Queen's Birthday holiday, Tuesday May 24 in 1887) was won 2-0 by the home side and the trophy still resides in the area—in a private collection. The game at 1.15pm on Sunday March 24 will re-create that famous day—complete with old-time goals, ball and playing strips.

The magnificent trophy is still in fine shape and is believed to be the oldest Australian soccer trophy still in existence. It will be 'played for' on the day.

Having watched our National Knockout Cup competition struggle for fan and media interest for so long, it is about time this trophy was turned into Australia's version of the FA Cup (which is only 15 years older). Call it the Nation (or Soccer Australia) Cup and prefix it temporarily with the name of the cup sponsor—but as we all know, sponsors come and go—yet the Cup should remain to help give us the continuity that competition has always lacked.

When you consider that this cup pre-dates all those held dear by other codes in this country (the VFL began in 1896, Rugby League only started in 1907 and Rugby Union's Bledisloe Cup was first played for in 1932), you begin to get a feel for the trophy's significance and its potential usefulness.

Now I can't claim to have any Scottish blood—my Australian-born mother has English, Welsh and Irish ancestry—but

like many thousands of others, I will be making the pilgrimage to Joadja on Sunday week.

Every person has a yearning to discover their roots. To us, the true Aussie football fans, this is about as old and as meaningful a football experience as there is in this country.

In 'From the Grandstand' on this coming Saturday, March 16, I will look more closely at Joadja then, as well as the program for the historic open weekend.

Chris Kunz



"SPORTSMANS WAREHOUSE"
MATCH DAY MASCOT



Matt plays centre forward for Majura in Division 1 Under elevens. His best effort was 12 goals in one game. He has also played for Turner Primary in 4 all schools tournaments and his team won all of them. Matt started playing 6 years ago and like most small boys his ambition is to play for **Cosmos** and Australia.

What's Ahead

ROUND 24

12/03 Marconi v Newcastle
12/03 W. Adelaide v Brisbane
13/03 COSMOS v Sydney Utd
13/03 Wollongong v Adelaide C.
13/03 S. Melbourne v Morwell
13/03 UTS Olympic v M. Knights

ROUND 25

15/03 Newcastle v W. Adelaide
16/03 COSMOS v Wollongong
16/03 Morwell v UTS Olympic
16/03 Sydney Utd v Brisbane
17/03 Adelaide C. v S. Melbourne
17/03 M. Knights v Marconi

ROUND 26

22/03 Wollongong v Sydney Utd
23/03 Brisbane v Newcastle
23/03 Marconi v Morwell
24/03 S. Melbourne v COSMOS
24/03 UTS Olympic v Adelaide C.
24/03 W. Adelaide v M. Knights

ROUND 27

27/03 Wollongong v S. Melbourne
27/03 COSMOS v UTS Olympic
27/03 Morwell v W. Adelaide
27/03 Adelaide C. v Marconi
27/03 M. Knights v Brisbane
27/03 Sydney Utd v Newcastle

ROUND 28

29/03 Newcastle v M. Knights
30/03 Brisbane v Morwell
30/03 Marconi v COSMOS
31/03 S. Melbourne v Sydney Utd
31/03 UTS Olympic v Wollongong
31/03 W. Adelaide v Adelaide C.

REFEREES FOR TONIGHTS GAMES

COSMOS

Referee: M. Shields (QLD)
Linesmen: C. McKillop (ACT)
C. Blain (ACT)
4th Official: G. Dunster (ACT)
C. Thayer (ACT)

ACADEMY

Referee: B. Wilson (ACT)
Linesmen: G. Martin (ACT)
B. Hammond (ACT)
Inspector: G. Dobbin (ACT)

Competition Tables

Ericsson Cup Table as at 10th March 1996

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Marconi Fairfield	23	13	5	5	42	25	44
UTS Olympic	23	13	5	5	43	29	44
Brisbane Strikers	23	12	5	6	39	24	41
Melbourne Knights	23	10	7	6	26	17	37
Sydney United	23	9	7	5	31	22	36
Adelaide City	23	10	5	8	43	30	35
West Adelaide	23	10	4	9	31	31	34
Morwell Falcons	23	8	5	10	27	41	29
South Melbourne	23	8	4	11	34	40	28
Canberra Cosmos	23	5	8	10	37	46	23
Newcastle Breakers	23	4	5	14	29	49	17
Wollongong City	23	4	2	17	21	49	14

Match Results Round 20(16/17/18 February 1996)

Newcastle Breakers	3	v	0	UTS Olympic
Brisbane Strikers	1	v	1	Marconi
Sydney Utd	3	v	0	West Adelaide
Morwell Falcons	3	v	2	Wollongong
Adelaide City	6	v	0	Canberra COSMOS
Melbourne Knights	1	v	1	South Melbourne

Les Scheinflug Youth Cup

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
A.I.S.	24	17	2	5	77	32	53
Marconi Fairfield	22	17	1	4	69	16	52
Sydney United	22	15	0	7	49	28	45
ACT Academy	22	12	3	7	42	41	39
Wollongong City	22	11	3	8	47	44	36
UTS Olympic	22	10	5	7	45	29	25
Parramatta Eagles	23	8	6	9	40	40	30
QLD Academy of Sport	21	9	2	10	50	34	29
Newcastle Breakers	23	7	3	13	35	48	24
Blacktown City	21	5	5	11	34	68	20
NSW ITC	21	3	0	18	22	76	9
St George	21	2	2	17	19	73	8

Match Results Round 23 (7/8/9 March 1996)

Newcastle Breakers	0	v	2	UTS Olympic
AIS	3	v	0	Parramatta Eagles
Qld Academy	0	v	0	Marconi
Sydney United	5	v	0	St George
NSW ITC v ACT Academy				postponed
Blacktown City v Wollongong				postponed

COSMOS

**Next Home
Game**

versus

Wollongong

**Saturday
16th March 1996**

**Bruce
Stadium**

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on the
Ericsson Cup.**



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4. Richard Watson



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8. Norman Kelly



BELNORTH JUNIOR SC

11. Toplica Popovich



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9. Lachlan Armstrong



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